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In The Daily

BRAZIL/WEST GERMANY: The Brazilian government—supported by congressmen from both political parties and the press—is adamant against revising its nuclear development effort. The program is aimed at reducing dependence on foreign sources for nuclear fuel. Brazil has rejected a US call for suspension of its purchase of West German uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing plants. Brazilian officials say Brazil will not sign the Nonproliferation Treaty until Argentina signs (Page 1)

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BRAZIL - WEST GERMANY

Nuclear Agreement

The Brazilian government is increasingly adamant in its refusal to consider any revisions in its nuclear development program.

Earlier this week, the government publicly rejected a suggestion by Secretary Vance that Brazil temporarily suspend its agreement with West Germany under which the Germans are to provide plants for uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing. The government statement comes at a time when prominent congressmen in both Brazilian parties as well as senior foreign policy officials are denouncing US criticism of the accord as outside interference and an insult to their national prestige.

The statement was apparently based on a decision by the Geisel government not to consider any alternatives to present plans for obtaining plants for enriching uranium and recycling fuel. Brazil is seeking energy alternatives to petroleum, coal, and natural gas, which it must now import at great expense. It intends to obtain a full nuclear fuel cycle, including reprocessing, in order to reduce its dependence on foreign sources for nuclear fuel.

The Brazilian press has been strongly critical of US statements that warn against nuclear proliferation, arguing that the Nonproliferation Treaty is discriminatory. The government insists that it will not be bound by any agreement that could restrict its economic and technological development. Brazilian officials have said, moreover, that the government will not sign the Nonproliferation Treaty so long as Argentina, Brazil's regional rival, refuses to do so.

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SS—Secret SPOKE
S—Secret
C—Confidential
U—Unclassified
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